Y3 – Chromatic – What is illustration? Lesson 1

Lesson	1 of 5

Learning objective

I can explore the differences between watercolour and acrylic paints and practise using a paintbrush with control.

National Curriculum links

NC KS2:
Children will:

- develop their techniques, including their control and their use of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design
- improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials (for example, pencil, charcoal, paint, clay)
- create sketchbooks to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas

Key lesson question

How are watercolour paints different to acrylic paints?

Resources

- lesson presentation (PPT)
- activity worksheet
- support material
- art sketchbook (if used in your setting)
- paint sponges or paper towels and aprons/table covers
- acrylic paints (orange and white)
- watercolour paints
- paintbrushes and palettes

Teaching input

Teacher note: Acrylic paint dries quickly and can stain. Ensure aprons are worn, surfaces are protected and brushes are washed promptly.

- **Art skills** – Review the 'core' and 'supporting' skills the children will use in this lesson, highlighted on the slide.
- **What is illustration?** – The slide shows the lesson questions the children will answer in this unit. The current lesson's question is highlighted on the slide.
- **Key vocabulary for this lesson** – Go through the key vocabulary for this lesson and their definitions. Have any of the children heard these words before? Did they already know their meanings?
- **What is art?** – Read through the information on the slide. Explain what art means and what chromatic art means. Ask children if they have seen any art in their home or on a visit anywhere. Go through the keyword and its definition in the 'New word alert!' box.
- **Word detective** – Read through the information on the slide.
- **Developing technique** – Choose a child to read what Dayla says about the core skill, 'Developing technique'. Use this slide to teach the children what the skill means. They will be used multiple times throughout the unit, and the children need to know what they mean. Each lesson will focus on different art skills.
- **Abstract or realism?** – Read through the information on the slide – Children discuss which painting shows abstract art or realism with their learning partner. Take feedback from the class before revealing the answers on the following slide. Go through the keyword and its definition in the 'New word alert!' box.
- **Acrylic and watercolour paints** – Read through the information on the slide and discuss the differences between acrylic and watercolour paint. Ask children if they have used either of the paints before and talk about their experiences using them if they have, Go through the keywords and their definitions in the 'New word alert!' boxes.
- **Word detective** – Read through the information on the slide.
- **Let's watch** – Explain how the artist in the video adds water to watercolour paint which makes the colour lighter. Teacher can pause to discuss the steps taken at key points if needed.
- **How does it work?** – Read through the information on the slide. Explain how acrylic paints need a lighter colour paint (e.g. white) to lighten the tone, but watercolour paint simply uses water.
- **Safety** – Read through the safety rules clearly. Ensure that children are aware that acrylic paint dries quickly and can stain and that they should wear an apron, keep the table covered and wash their brush straight away after use.
- **Activity 1** – Over the following three slides, the children will explore and experiment with both acrylic and watercolour paint and how to make them lighter on their activity 1 worksheet. Examples are provided on the slides, or the teacher could demonstrate and talk through the activity, modelling for the class.
- **Let's recap** – Remind the children of the three primary colours and how they can be mixed to make secondary colours.
- **Using a paintbrush** – Remind the children that they should wash their paintbrush every time they use a new paint colour. Explain that if they don't, the colours can become messy and discoloured.
- **Activity 2** – In their individual art sketchbooks (or on paper), the children are to paint rainbows using watercolour paint, experimenting with adding more or less water each time. Discuss the image example on the slide; the teacher could model the activity for the class or in small groups.
- **Let's share** – Read through the information on the slide. The children are to share their thoughts with their table groups. Sentence starters and questions are displayed on the slide to help them. Remind them to be good listeners.
- **Challenge** – The children are to discuss and answer the question 'True or false? Both acrylic and watercolour paints change when you add something to them.' Take feedback from the class. Use the following slide to share the answer and discuss.
- **Next time** – Read through the information on the slide. Explain to children they will learn more about illustrations and illustrators next lesson.

Main activity

Children will complete activity 1 by exploring orange acrylic and watercolour paint, practising how to lighten acrylic with white and watercolour with water while developing brush control. As acrylic paint dries quickly and can stain, children should wear aprons, protect surfaces and wash brushes promptly. In activity 2, children will use watercolour paint to create rainbows, practising layering and water control to change how light or dark the colours appear.

Challenge

Using their knowledge, the children are to discuss and answer the question 'True or false? Both acrylic and watercolour paints change when you add something to them.' and explain their reasoning.

Cumulative quiz questions

1. How do artists make acrylic paint lighter?

2. A pupil says: "Acrylic paint and watercolour paint are used in exactly the same way." Which answer best explains the mistake?

3. True or false? Watercolour paint is made darker by adding more water.

Self-assessment

- I can use a paintbrush carefully to make controlled brushstrokes.
- I can explain the difference between acrylic paint and watercolour paint.
- I can make colours lighter by adding white to acrylic paint and water to watercolour paint.
- I can work safely with paint, including wearing an apron and washing my brush.

Key vocabulary

abstract – art that does not try to look like real life
brushstroke – a mark or line made by moving a paintbrush across a surface
mixing – combining two or more colours together to make a new colour
painting – using paint and tools, such as brushes, to put colour onto a surface to make a picture; a picture made with paint
techniques – the way an artist uses tools or materials to make effects